

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for computing a preferred set of prices for a subset of a plurality of products, comprising computer readable media, comprising:

5 computer readable code for storing initial prices for a plurality of products;

computer readable code for creating a demand model based on Bayesian modeling;

10 computer readable code for designating a subset of products of the plurality of products, wherein the number of products in the subset of products is less than the number of products in the plurality of products; and

15 computer readable code for using the created demand model to optimize prices for products in the subset of products, while maintaining the initial prices of products of the plurality of products that are not in the subset of products, wherein the optimization uses a grid method to determine the optimized prices.

2. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer readable code for designating a subset, comprises:

20 computer readable code for allowing a number N to be designated; and

computer readable code for selecting no more than N products of the plurality of products to form the subset of products.

3. The apparatus, as recited in claim 2, wherein the computer readable code for selecting no more than N products selects products that provide the greatest optimization for any set of N products of the plurality of products.

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4. The apparatus, as recited in claim 3, further comprising computer readable code for providing initial prices by optimizing prices for all of the plurality of products.

10 5. The apparatus, as recited in claim 4, further comprising computer readable code for providing new data subsequent to providing initial prices by optimizing prices.

15 6. The apparatus, as recited in claim 5, wherein the computer readable code for providing new data comprises computer readable code for providing new price data and computer readable code for providing new bound data.

7. The apparatus, as recited in claim 6, further comprising computer readable code for providing rule relaxation.

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8. The apparatus, as recited in claim 7, wherein the computer readable code for providing rule relaxation comprises:

computer readable code for allowing the prioritization of a plurality of rules; and

computer readable code for relaxing at least one lower priority rule to allow a higher priority rule to become feasible.

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9. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer readable code for providing initial prices by optimizing prices for all of the plurality of products.

10 10. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer readable code for providing new data subsequent to providing initial prices by optimizing prices.

11. The apparatus, as recited in claim 10, wherein the computer readable code for providing new data comprises computer readable code for providing new price data and computer readable code for providing new bound data.

12. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer readable code for providing rule relaxation.

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13. The apparatus, as recited in claim 12, wherein the computer readable code for providing rule relaxation, comprises:

computer readable code for allowing the prioritization of a plurality of rules; and

computer readable code for relaxing at least one lower priority rule to allow a higher priority rule to become feasible.

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14. A method for computing a preferred set of prices for a subset of products of a plurality of products, comprising:

storing initial prices for a plurality of products;

creating a demand model based on Bayesian modeling;

10 designating a subset of products of the plurality of products, wherein the number of products in the subset of products is less than the number of products in the plurality of products; and

15 optimizing prices for products in the subset of products, while maintaining the initial prices of products of the plurality of products that are not in the subset of products using the demand model, wherein the optimization uses a grid method to determine the optimized prices.

15. The method, as recited in claim 14, wherein the designating a subset comprises:

20 allowing a number N to be designated; and

selecting no more than N products of the plurality of products to form the subset of products.

16. The method, as recited in claim 15, wherein the selecting no more than N products selects products that provide the greatest optimization for any set of N products of the plurality of products.

5 17. The method, as recited in claim 14, further comprising providing initial prices by optimizing prices for all of the plurality of products.

18. The method, as recited in claim 17, further comprising providing new data subsequent to providing initial prices by optimizing prices.

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19. The method, as recited in claim 18, wherein the new data comprises new price data and bound data.

20. The method, as recited in claim 14, further comprising providing rule
15 relaxation.

21. A method for setting prices for a subset of products of a plurality of products, comprising:

receiving optimized prices for a product category;

20 pricing every item in the product category according to the received optimized prices;

providing new data

receiving new prices for the subset of products of the product category,
wherein the subset is smaller than the product category, wherein the received
new prices are generated by storing initial prices for a plurality of products,
designating a subset of products of the plurality of products, wherein the
5 number of products in the subset of products is less than the number of
products in the plurality of products, and optimizing prices for products in the
subset of products, while freezing the initial prices of products of the plurality
of products in the product category that are not in the subset of products,
wherein the optimization uses a grid method to determine the optimized
10 prices; and

setting prices for the subset of products according to the received new
prices.

22. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing
15 sequences of instructions which when executed by a processor, causes the
processor to compute a preferred set of prices for a subset of a plurality of
products, by performing the steps comprising:

storing initial prices for a plurality of products;

designating a subset of products of the plurality of products, wherein
20 the number of products in the subset of products is less than the number of
products in the plurality of products; and

optimizing prices for products in the subset of products, while
maintaining the initial prices of products of the plurality of products that are
not in the subset of products, wherein the optimization uses a grid method to
25 determine the optimized prices.

23. A price database generated by the method comprising:

storing initial prices for a plurality of products;

designating a subset of products of the plurality of products, wherein the number of products in the subset of products is less than the number of products in the plurality of products; and

optimizing prices for products in the subset of products, while maintaining the initial prices of products of the plurality of products that are not in the subset of products, wherein the optimization uses a grid method to determine the optimized prices.

24. A method for obtaining optimized price data on a client system, comprising the steps of:

sending sales data to a server system for a plurality of products;

selecting optimization preferences;

transmitting said optimization preferences to said server system;

receiving from said server system optimization prices for all of the plurality of products, wherein the optimization uses a grid method to determine the optimized prices;

sending additional sales data to the server system;

selecting a subset constraint;

sending the subset constraint to the server system; and

receiving from the server system a new set of optimization prices for a subset of the plurality of products which is less than the plurality of products,

